

made in its brief career. The Dominion is far ahead of other parts of the world, in his opinion, and so affords many useful object lessons. On the question of the relative cost of living in England and New Zealand, Mr. Ledger believes that if a man is of a really thrifty disposition, he could save more in New Zealand than in England, but must exercise his self-control to do so. Still, he returned from the Dominion feeling that the artisan in good employment in England could get more for his money here than he could get for his larger wages in New Zealand. Mr. Ledger found very little alcoholic intemperance in New Zealand. The people struck him as being great water and tea drinkers. The State schools seemed to be very good. The Sunday schools were fairly vigorous in the towns, but not more than 5 per cent of the children in the country districts know the Lord's Prayer, according to Mr. Ledger. It also struck him that children in New Zealand have no nursery life. They live with adults and are talked to as if they were adults, with the result that they are neither shy nor impudent, but "talk like little men and women upon every subject in life." Their imaginations and sense of fun are cultivated. Mr. Ledger thought the climate of New Zealand was very fine, but just as uncertain as the English climate.

Resignation of the High Commissioner.

The Premier announced on July 24 that Mr. W. P. Reeves had resigned the High Commissionership as from October next, and had accepted the position of Director of Economics and Political Science in the London University.

Sir Joseph Ward added that nothing had been decided as to the successor of Mr. Reeves. The appointment was a very important one, and would require very careful consideration. He proposed to make a statement to the House before the end of the session, and would then put on record what he believed to be the general opinion of members regarding the very satisfactory way in which Mr. Reeves had so long and honourably discharged his duties in London.

Rumour associates the name of the Hon. W. Hall Jones with the High Commissionership. Other "probables" mentioned are the Hon. T. K. Macdonald, Mr. Thos. Mackenzie, M.P., and Mr. T. E. Donne, the general manager of the Tourist Department. It is not expected that the appointment will be made for at least three months from now.

The Industrial Arbitration Act.

A combined meeting of labour unions in Napier passed the following resolution:—"That while unhesitatingly reaffirming the principle of arbitration and conciliation, this meeting emphatically condemns the proposed Arbitration Amendment Bill."

A committee of the Hawke's Bay Employers' Association has considered the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill and the amendments suggested by the Employers' Federation. The committee is generally favourable to the proposed amendments made by the federation, but does not approve of the Canterbury proposal to leave disputes in the hands of a public conciliator only. In conclusion, the Hawke's Bay Association Committee says, "The proposed Act appeals to us as a bona fide endeavour to put industrial conditions on a better footing for all concerned, and some such Act is the only hope of preventing compulsory conciliation and arbitration from being swept away altogether."

Maori Traditions.

Some time ago, a conference was held in the Wairarapa of Maoris whose ancestors are supposed to have come to New Zealand in the canoe Takitimu. The object of the gathering was to compile and put in writing old traditions, handed down by the tohungas, which were otherwise in danger of being lost. A Wairarapa Native, Whatahoro, informed the Maori Congress that he has two volumes of these traditions in his possession. It is probable that some of them may prove of considerable interest. Whatahoro stated that he had been collecting similar lore since 1864. It is understood that Mr. Elsdon Best, an indefatigable collector of Maori folk-lore and student of the Maori race and customs, has a large quantity of information on these subjects ready for publication.

Trades and Labour Conference.

The annual session of the Trades and Labour Councils of the Dominion has been sitting at Wellington during the past week. A long series of resolutions was adopted dealing with the proposed amendment of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and suggested new provisions in the interests of labour. It was also resolved that the workers be urged to vote No-License, with a view to the State assuming control of the liquor traffic.

The Conference decided to recommend that old pensions be increased to 12/6 per week, and that all persons rendered incapable of earning their living either from accident, sickness, or natural infirmities should be entitled to a pension regardless of age limit.

The Conference considered the following remits:—

From Southland: "That the Government be urged to nationalise the following industries of the Dominion, viz., by starting State Departments, (a) sawmilling, (b) ironworks, (c) boot factories, (d) bakeries, (e) clothing factories, (f) banking facilities."

From Otago: "That the Government be urged to establish clothing and boot factories, flour and woollen mills, bakeries ironworks, and iron shipbuilding yards, and to nationalise the marine coastal and intercolonial service. An amendment was moved that the Government nationalise all industries when opportunity offered. The amendment was carried and was subsequently amended by the addition of the words "especially those industries connected with the necessities of life."

Threatened Coal Strike.

A strike of some dimensions, it is stated, is threatened in connection with the coal mining industry. The Minister for Labour (the Hon. J. A. Millar) has been informed by telegram from the officers of the Miners' Union, Otago, that unless a settlement of the existing dispute between the miners and the coal mine-owners is arrived at by Monday next 5000 men will go out on strike.

This decision is the outcome of negotiations that have been in progress for some time past. The miners went before the Arbitration Court in Dunedin, and the Court instructed them to go back to the employers and try to arrange a conference with a view to settlement. They state that they had previously endeavoured to settle their differences by this means without success.

Regarding the threatened miners' strike, the Hon. J. A. Millar, Minister for Labour, states that he has received information from the West Coast that they have no knowledge of the proposed strike. "I am also informed," he adds, "that if a strike does occur it can, under the worst circumstances, only affect Green Island miners, who number sixty or seventy. At latest advices, there was every prospect of settling the difficulty. I am pleased to hear that the matter is not likely to be so serious as was represented by alarmist reports."

Accidents, Suicides, etc.

A young jockey named George Webster was killed as the result of a tram accident in Karangahape-road, Auckland, on April 22.

A little boy was leading a horse at Methven on Tuesday, when the animal bolted, dashing him against a post, with fatal results.

A fatal accident was caused at Bartholomew's mill, Levin, by a knife, which flew out of a planing machine, striking a mill hand named John Stanley Widdows on the side of the head, breaking his jaw and neck. Death was instantaneous.

An inquest was held on July 23 concerning death of a young woman named Laura Goodwin, who was killed by the express train from Christchurch on Tuesday last. Evidence showed that deceased had been unwell, and that when she went upon the carriage platform, she fainted and fell between the carriages. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

A labouring man named John William Walsh, aged about 38, committed suicide in Wellington harbour by jumping off the outer toe of Queen's Wharf. The act was deliberate, the man stripping off all his clothes and leaving them on the wharf under some bricks. He was seen to jump in by a stevedore working on the forebath of the steamer Victoria. The body was soon recovered, but life was extinct. While the police were ap-

plying artificial respiration the man's wife arrived, having discovered a note in his bedroom saying that his clothes would be found on the wharf.

A young man named S. Davis fell from Roman rings in St. Peter's gymnasium, Hamilton, and was taken to the hospital, where it was found that his upper and lower jaw and nose were fractured. It is also feared his skull is fractured.

Emmanuel Edmund Deer, an aged resident of the Bluff, was burnt to death on July 26th under peculiar circumstances. Deer lived by himself in a four-roomed house, and at about 11.30 p.m. a passer-by noticed the flames through the window, and on knocking at the door Deer replied that he would be out in a minute. The passer-by then went to give the alarm, but Deer, it is presumed, had waited too long, and had been overcome by smoke. Close by the body, when found, was a purse containing a number of charred notes and several pieces of gold, which, no doubt, he tried to save.

Alexander Webster, believed to have been a shearer, was run over in Wellington on July 24 by the 8.30 train from Wellington to Te Aro. Both legs were taken off, and his right arm was badly crushed. Webster was removed to the hospital, where he died at 11 o'clock. The deceased was a married man, about 39 years of age, and was a resident of Petone.

An elderly widow named Mary Hobbins, was killed on July 22 by falling from Parnell railway bridge, Auckland, on to the roadway, nearly 30 feet below.

A man named Jas. Craw, while duck-shooting on the Kaituna river, near Christchurch, on July 24, was accidentally drowned.

At the Auckland Working Men's Club on July 26, a labourer named Wm. Jackson, died suddenly after having a bath. The door of the bathroom had to be burst open.

THE AMERICAN FLEET

Funds for the entertainment of the American fleet are now coming in more freely in Sydney.

The American battleship fleet, of sixteen vessels, under the command of Admiral Sperry, has sailed from Honolulu for Auckland, where the warships are due on August 9.

The Government Commissioners (Messrs. T. E. Donne and T. H. Hamer) have taken over their new offices in the City Chambers, where more commodious apartments have been furnished for their use.

The room for the visiting Press representatives is situated close to the Commissioners' offices, and is now being comfortably furnished for use. It will accommodate about 20 journalists.

The Governor leaves Napier for Auckland on Wednesday for the fleet festivities.

The Australasian Squadron.

His Worship the Mayor has received the following memo. from the Prime Minister:—

After giving full consideration to the request of the New Zealand Government, his Excellency the Governor advises me that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have decided that it would be impracticable for the Australian squadron to be present at Auckland during the visit of the United States fleet, but adds that the Commander-in-Chief will, if possible, be at Auckland on the arrival of the United States fleet, and in the event of his unavoidable absence, the senior officer in New Zealand will be present.

Accident on the Kearsage.

The bursting of a steam pipe badly injured five sailors on the battleship Kearsage, 11,520 tons (one of the vessels that is to visit Auckland), while she was lying in Honolulu Harbour.

Parliamentary Visit.

The following are the members of Parliament who will make the visit to Auckland for fleet week:—

House of Representatives: Messrs. Allison, Allen, Arnold, Barber, Baume, Boland, Carroll, Chapple, Colvin, Dillon, Duncan, Field, Flatman, Fowlds, Frazer, Hall, Graham, Greenslade, Guinness, Hanan, Hardy, Heke, Hogan, Hogg, Houston, Izard, Jennings, Kaihau, Kidd, Lang, Laurensen, Lawry, Lethbridge, McGowan, McLachlan, Major, Malcolm, Mander,

Massey, Millar, Mills, Ngata, Okay, Poole, Poland, Remington, Rhodes, Seddon, Sir W. J. Stewart, Sir Joseph Ward, Messrs. Stallworthy, Thompson, Wood.

Legislative Council: Messrs. Amstey, Beahan, Callan, Carnaross, Findlay, Gilmer, George, Holmes, Jenkinson, Johnston, Jones, Louisa, Lake, Macdonald, McCardie, Marshall, Sir G. M. O'Rorke, Messrs. Pere, Samuel, Scotland, Sinclair, Smith, Thompson, Trask, Mahuta, Whereverho.

The President on the Cruise.

President Roosevelt, addressing a gathering of naval men at Newport, said that the American battleship fleet's cruise round South America showed the reality of the Monroe doctrine.

He wanted a first-class fighting navy, or none at all. A purely defensive navy, was almost worthless.

The coasts must be protected by fortifications, enabling the navy to seek out and destroy the enemy.

COMMONWEALTH.

A Tasmanian loan of £200,000 has been issued at 3½ per cent with a minimum of 98.

Sir T. Gibson-Carmichael, the new Governor of Victoria, has arrived by the R.M.S. Macedonia from London.

After a long-drawn battle, Sydney City Council has decided to allow the use of the Town Hall for Sunday concerts.

Owing to shortness of fat stock in Victoria, Southern buyers are operating on a large scale in the Sydney market, where high prices are now ruling.

A Japanese cook in an hotel at Townsville shot a young girl named Gallagher, employed in the hotel, and then shot himself dead. He had a quarrel with the girl a few days ago.

In connection with a Chinese gambling case, a detective stated that the Government Actuary had worked out the chances of drawing a prize in a pak-a-poo bank, and they were eleven million to one.

Under the enlarged powers of the amended Anti-Trust Act the Victorian Customs authorities are inquiring into alleged coal and confectionery combines with a view to possible action.

In the Tasmanian Assembly, a want of confidence motion, tabled on the ground that the Government was not sincere in pushing matters through the Council, was negatived by 18 votes to 11.

The Tasmanian Assembly read the Local Option Bill a second time on the voices. It provides for time and compensation for the closing of hotels and places clubs on the same footing as hotels.

Official returns show that 42,000 Island labourers have returned to their homes and about 1000 have been granted certificates enabling them to remain in the Commonwealth.

Provision is made in the Tasmanian Local Option Bill that after September only those barmaids employed will be allowed to remain and no increase will be permitted.

A Sydney suburban councillor stated that rabbit suffering from hydrophobia were being sent to Sydney for consumption, and that he would sooner take a bottle of strychnine than eat a rabbit at the present time.

Giving evidence before the Postal Commission Mr. Young, deputy postmaster, said that the alleged sweating was exaggerated. He admitted that payment for 32,000 hours' overtime was due to the staff. He had been compelled to do clerical work owing to shortness of the staff and the Department thus lost his services as Controller.

The West Australian Parliament was opened on the 23rd July. The Governor's Speech, which was brief, stated that as the session would be a short one only formal bills would be submitted. The general election had been arranged for as early as possible, and a new Parliament would be summoned to get through work this year.

The South Australian Parliament was opened on the 23rd July. The Governor's Speech congratulated the country on its unexampled prosperity. There was a surplus of £480,000, which would be devoted to the reduction of the public debt. Attention would be given to further closer settlement, progressive land taxation, early closing, and several other social measures.

New South Wales Po...

The Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, opened Parliament on July 22. The Speech